

Message Text

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22

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 CEA-01 /101 W

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R 171017Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY BIENTIANE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 25994

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, CB, TH

SUBJ: THAI-CAMBODIAN BORDER TRADE

REF: BANGKOK 24466

1. OFFICIAL TRADE WITH CAMBODIA AT ARANYAPRATHET-POIPET CHECKPOINT OPENED AUGUST 30 (REFTEL) BUT CLOSED FOLLOWING WEEK WHEN INTERIOR MINISTRY REALIZED IT HAD NOT ISSUED NECESSARY DECREE. THIS BEING DONE, BORDER WAS REOPENED FOR TRADE SEPTEMBER 15.

2. FROM WHAT EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS, HOWEVER, OPENINGS AND CLOSINGS HAVE MADE ABSOLUTELY NO DIFFERENCE, FOR THE TRADE-- WHAT THERE IS OF IT--HAS BEEN OCCURRING ANYWAY. MOST OFTEN, DRIED FISH IS COMING OUT OF CAMBODIA. A FRENCH JOURNALIST IN ARANYAPRATHET SAID HE OBSERVED A NUMBER OF FAN BELTS BEING TRANSPORTED INTO CAMBODIA ON A HONDA. HE NEITHER SAW NOR HEARD OF ANY SMUGGLERS, BEING TOLD THAT ANYONE WISHING TO TRADE HAS ONLY TO CROSS THE BRIDGE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES OPENLY.

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3. THE TRADE APPEARS TO BE PRIMARILY FOR THE BENEFIT OF

NORTHWESTERN CAMBODIA. IT HIS NOT LARGE-SCALE AND IS NOT
EXPECTED TO BE UNLESS, AS IN PERIODS IN THE PAST, CAMBODIA FEELS
THE PINCH FOR IMPORTANT AMOUNTS OF SUCH COMMODITIES AS
SALT, RICE, OR PETROLEUM, WHICH DOES NOT NOW APPEAR TO BE THE
CASE.
BURKE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: greeneet
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